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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065
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Memo: re reports of
1. Disappearance in the Liquica area
2. Arrests in Dili
3. Discovery of bodies on Dili beach

To: Carl Murphy, Indonesia Desk, DFAT
Fax: 06-261 3262
Date: 26 June 1990
From: Pat Walsh

1. Disappearances

Reports from Jakarta and East Timor in later May allege that four East Timorese from Maubara, in Liquica kabupaten, were arrested by the Indonesian military, following alleged contact with Fretilin guerillas in the area. Their whereabouts are unknown.

The four men are : Felix da Costa
Jose dos Santos Lopes
Francisco do Carmo
Custodio da Silva Lunes

2. Arrests in Dili

Reports from Jakarta and East Timor, also in late May, allege that two East Timorese were arrested in Dili in May. They are Frederico Magno Sarmento, 30, a resident of Audian in Dili, who is reportedly accused of links with the guerrilla resistance and Hermenegildo Filomeno Valdanha da Conceicao, also known as Amau, a taxi driver, who lives in Taibesse (Dili) across from the Indonesian military centre. He was reportedly arrested by Korem and tortured.

3. Bodies on Dili beach

An Australian tourist who was in East Timor until May 14 was informed that around that period the bodies of two young East Timorese men were washed up on the Dili beach. They had reportedly been garrotted. The tourist's informant, a public servant, believed the bodies were youth who had been involved in demonstrations and throwing rocks at the police and military in Dili.

The Australian tourist, a former navy man of integrity, had no way of checking the details but was inclined to accept the account as he knew and respected his informant.

Request

It is requested that urgent efforts be made (1) to establish the whereabouts and circumstances of the six men listed in paras 1 and 2 and, if it is found they are under arrest, that the authorities be urged to fully respect their human rights and, as a minimum, abide by KUHAP provisions, and (2) to make enquiries about the allegation in para 3 and whether criminal or political factors were involved.

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